

# News Release

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## **Zambian Ambassador Meets with Riverside Officials**

**Riverside, Calif.** – The Republic of Zambia's Ambassador to the United States Sheila Siwela and a small delegation met with representatives from the mayor's office and Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) last week, to discuss how Riverside has molded itself into a leading green community in the state, and throughout the world.

"We were searching for a city that we could meet with to discuss new advancements in water and power utilities technology, including green energy and water conservation," said Robert Sichinga, founder of the Zambian-USA Chamber of Commerce who arranged the meeting between Riverside officials, Ambassador Siwela and Zambia's First Secretary of Trade Inonge Limbambala. "As we continued to do research on Riverside, we found out that it had been recognized with many awards for its progressive projects and policies," Sichinga said.

The city's International Relations Officer Lalit Acharya, along with representatives from RPU met with the delegation to talk about Riverside's water and energy delivery systems, renewable energy projects and programs, and what has been done to help create a thriving sustainable community here.

"They were very interested in our hydroelectric power pipe project," said RPU Assistant General Manager Kevin Milligan, "and how they might be able to utilize that technology." The group toured the site where since 2010 RPU has been working in partnership with LucidEnergy of Portland, Oregon as the pilot test facility to develop their new LucidPipe Power System.

The system, which is attached to a 60 inch water main, generates electricity through a spherical turbine that spins as water passes by it. The unique project which provides a new way to create clean, renewable energy by harnessing the power of moving water received an Outstanding Energy Management Award last year from the American Water Works Association, which gained the attention of the Zambian delegation.

"I am sure in the future, we will reach out to the developers of that technology to see how it can be used in Zambia," said Sichinga. Another connection Sichinga would like to see made is through Riverside's Sister Cities program. "We would be very interested in fostering a sister city relationship with Riverside," he said. Currently, the only African sister city Riverside has is Obuasi, in Ghana.

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Established in 1895, Riverside Public Utilities is a consumer-owned water and electric utility governed by a board of nine community volunteers that provides high quality, reliable services to over 106,000 metered electric customers and up to 64,000 metered water customers throughout the City of Riverside. The Utility is committed to increased use of renewable energy resources and sustainable living practices that help reduce environmental impacts within the City of Riverside and the state of California.

[www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com](http://www.RiversidePublicUtilities.com)

[www.GreenRiverside.com](http://www.GreenRiverside.com)

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